

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00556 041030Z

11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-11 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SSC-01 /087 W

----- 121312

R 040205Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6161

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0556

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, LA

SUBJECT: TRANSLATIONS OF NEW LAO TERMS

1. THE REVOLUTION IN LAOS IS NOT JUST POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BUT ALSO LINGUISTIC. THE CADRES OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY BROUGHT THEIR OWN TERMS, PRONUNCIATION AND ORTHOGRAPHY WITH THEM WHEN THEY MOVED FROM VIENG SAY TO VIENTIANE. THEY ARE NOW IMPOSING THEM ON THE PEOPLE OF THE OLD VIENTIANE ZONE OR, AS IT IS NOW CALLED, THE NEW LIBERATED ZONE. OTHER THAN NEOLOGISMS, THIS BASICALLY INVOLVES PRONOUNCING WORDS THE WAY THEY ARE PRONOUNCED BY THE RURAL POPULATION OF LAOS RATHER THAN THE THAI INFLUENCED ELITE AND SPELLING THEM AS THEY ARE PRONOUNCED.

2. THE ADVENT OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS ALSO RESULTED IN A NUMBER OF TERMS WHICH THIS EMBASSY USES IN ITS REPORTING. TRANSLATIONS OF THESE HAVE VARIED, THUS PERHAPS CAUSING SOME CONFUSION AMONG OBSERVERS OF THE NEW LAOS. IN AN EFFORT TO LESSEN THIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00556 041030Z

CONFUSION, WE TRANSMIT BELOW A LIST OF OFTEN USED TERMS

(SOME NEW AND SOME IN LONG-TIME USE), FIRST A ROMANIZATION OF THE LAO, SECOND OUR TRANSLATION AND THIRD AN EXPLANATION.

A. SIENG PASASON, "PEOPLE'S VOICE." IT COULD ALSO BE TRANSLATED "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE." THIS IS THE PARTY'S OFFICIAL DAILY NEWSPAPER. IT IS PUBLISHED AT VIENTIANE SIX DAYS A WEEK. (WE USUALLY JUST USE THE ROMANIZED LAO WHEN REFERRING TO SIENG PASASON IN REPORTING.)

B. VIENTIANE MAY (A BETTER ROMANIZATION WOULD BE VIENG CHAN MAY), "NEW VIENTIANE." VIENTIANE MAY IS A SEMI-INDEPENDENT DAILY NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED SIX DAYS A WEEK AT VIENTIANE. (AS IN THE CASE OF SIENG PASASON, WE USUALLY DO NOT TRANSLATE ITS NAME IN REPORTING.)

C. SATHALANALAT PASASON LAO, "LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC." WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY USED "PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS" AS WE THOUGHT IT WAS BETTER ENGLISH, BUT THE LAO SEEM TO HAVE SETTLED ON "LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" AS THEIR TRANSLATION. IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION,; WE WILL CONFORM FROM NOW ON IN THEIR USAGE.

D. PATHAAN PATHEET, "PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC." THE LAO WORDS WOULD BE BETTER TRANSLATED "CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTRY," BUT THE LAO HAVE ADOPTED THE FORMER TRANSLATION.

E. PATHAAN SAPHA, "CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY." THIS IS SOUPHANOUVONG'S OTHER JOB. HE AND OTHER PRINCES ARE NOW USUALLY JUST STYLED "MR." RATHER THAN PRINCE OR TIAO. THE MANDARIN TITLE OF PHAGNA HAS ALSO DISAPPEARED.

F. SAPHA PASASON SUNGSUT, " SUPREME PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY." THIS BODY, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN DECEMBER, 1975, HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSLATED AS "COUNCIL," BUT THE LAO APPEAR TO PREFER "ASSEMBLY." LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00556 041030Z

G. LONG NAIYOKE (LATAMOUNTI), "DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER." THERE ARE FOUR OF THESE GENTLEMEN. WE HAVE ALWAYS USED "DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER" RATHER THAN "VICE PREMIER." THE LAO FRENCH TRANSLATION IS "VICE-PREMIER MINISTRE."

H. LONG LATAMOUNTI, "SECRETARY OF STATE." A MORE LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE LAO WOULD BE "VICE MINISTER."

HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF LAOS'S FRENCH TRADITIONS, "SECRE-  
TARY OF STATE" HAS BEEN THE NORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE  
TERM HERE.

I. KONG PASUME GNAI PHU TEN PASASON TUA PHATHEET,  
"NATIONAL CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES."  
THIS IS WHAT THE LAO CALL THE DECEMBER 1 AND 2, 1975  
MEETING OF COMMUNISTS AND OTHERS AT KILOMETER 6 WHICH  
DISSOLVED THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION,  
ABOLISHED THE MONARCHY AND ESTABLISHED THE LPDR.

J. PHAK PASASON PATIVAT LAO, "LAO PEOPLE'S  
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY." THIS IS THE LAO COMMUNIST  
PARTY.  
CORCORAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SOCIAL CHANGE, TRANSLATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 MAR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976VIENTI00556  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760082-0792  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760392/aaaaddvf.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 20 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSLATIONS OF NEW LAO TERMS  
**TAGS:** PINT, LA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006